
TTransfer of Knowledge at Imperial College (TRIC)

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OVERVIEW AND GOALS

The project explores industry engagement and commercialization by academics at Imperial College London. At the core of the project is the creation of the TRIC relational database (TTransfer of Knowledge at Imperial College). With assistance provided by the College, we will pool individual-level records for approximately 10,000 individual scientists in Science, Technology and Medicine employed by Imperial College London between 2002 and 2012. The College is a large research university with approximately 14,000 students, and employs 1,200 faculty and 2,200 research staff. In 2012, it received £314m in research grants and contracts of which £102m were research council grants.

The TRIC database will include information on 33,000 grant applications and 8,000 acquired grants from research funders both in the UK and abroad. Moreover, it will hold information on 3,400 research contracts, stemming from collaboration with business, public-sector and not-for-profit organizations. The records also contain individuals' publication records (220,000) as well as information on invention disclosures (3,800), patents (700), licences (400), courses taught, the supervision of PhD students, and consulting assignments, as well as demographic and human-resource related information.

The following questions will be explored:

- 1) What is the nature and extent of engagement by College staff, and how has this changed over the last 10 years?
- 2) How are individual industry engagement and research outputs related?
- 3) What is the lifecycle of engagement, i.e. how do various forms of external engagement lead to other forms of engagement?
- 4) What are the returns of investment from public science grants and industry grants in terms of patents, licenses, and other types of impact?
- 5) What are the characteristics of high-achieving research teams in terms of both academic and economic/social impact?